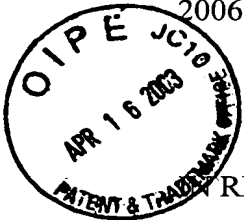


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200669US-0 DIV



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

RE APPLICATION OF :
YASUO KOBAYASHI ET AL : EXAMINER: DANG, T. D.
SERIAL NO: 09/736,147 :
FILED: DECEMBER 15, 2000 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1763
FOR: PROCESSING METHOD AND :
APPARATUS FOR REMOVING
OXIDE FILM

RECEIVED
APR 22 2003
GROUP 1700

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Office Action dated December 17, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 37.

Please amend Claims 32 and 38-41 as follows:

32. (Amended) A surface treatment apparatus comprising:

a plasma generation section for generating plasma from a plasma generating gas;

a treatment vessel connected to the plasma generation section and including a

susceptor on which a subject to be treated is placed;

C